

Clean Version of Pending Claims

**REUSABLE THERMAL SOLUTION ATTACHMENT MECHANISM AND METHODS OF
USING SAME**

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1. An apparatus for attaching a thermal solution to a circuit board comprising:
a mounting plate having a mounting plate opening designed to allow the thermal solution to contact a processor, the processor located on the circuit board; and
a connector having a first end and a second end, the first end attachable to the mounting plate and the second end securable to the circuit board, the connector designed to keep the mounting plate in contact with the processor.
 2. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a backing plate connected to the mounting plate with the connector, wherein the second end of the connector is also securable to the backing plate, the backing plate designed to prevent flexure of the circuit board.
 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the connector is a locking pin designed to slide through an existing tooling hole in the circuit board and securable at its first end to a slot in the mounting plate.
 - cont Sub B1 4. The apparatus of claim 3 comprising four key-hole shaped slots in the mounting plate and four corresponding locking pins insertable therein, each slot having a shelf along which the locking pin can slide.
 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein each shelf is substantially horizontal or substantially angled.

6. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the locking pins have bosses slidable along the shelves.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the shelves are substantially horizontal and the thermal solution has a threaded base engageable with threads in the mounting plate opening.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein pressure on the processor increases as the thermal solution is screwed into the mounting plate opening, further wherein thermal resistance between the processor and thermal solution is reduced.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a torque driver to screw the thermal solution into the mounting plate opening, wherein a predetermined amount of pressure can be imparted to the processor.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein about 345 to 690 kPa of pressure is imparted to the processor after the thermal solution has been screwed into the mounting plate opening.

11. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the shelves are substantially angled and the thermal solution is permanently mounted to the mounting plate opening.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein pressure on the processor increases as the locking pins slide along the shelves in a downwardly direction.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein about 345 to 690 kPa of pressure is imparted to the processor after the locking pins have been slid along the shelves.

14. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the apparatus attaches the thermal solution to the circuit board temporarily during testing.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the circuit board is less than 1.5 mm in thickness and 30 watts of power is removable by the thermal solution near a temperature of about 100°C.

16. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the circuit board is greater than 1.5 mm in thickness and about 50 or more watts of power is removable by the thermal solution near a temperature of about 100°C.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the apparatus permanently attaches the thermal solution to the circuit board.

18. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the mounting plate, backing plate and connector are each made from a material selected from the group consisting of aluminum, steel and plastic.

19. (Once Amended) A removable thermal solution attachment mechanism comprising:
a mounting plate having a mounting plate opening designed to allow the thermal solution to contact a processor located in a package;
a backing plate designed to connect to the mounting plate; and
connectors insertable into the mounting plate and backing plate wherein the thermal solution can impart a force on the package when the thermal solution is secured to the mounting plate, further wherein the thermal solution can remove heat from the processor.

20. The mechanism of claim 19 wherein the thermal solution is an active or passive thermal solution.

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21. The mechanism of claim 19 wherein the connectors are locking pins having one or more bosses insertable into openings in the mounting plate.

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22. The mechanism of claim 19 wherein the mounting plate has slots having a substantially horizontal or angular shelf along which the bosses can slide.

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23. The mechanism of claim 19 wherein the package is a socketed package securable to a circuit board.

24. (Once Amended) The mechanism of claim 19 wherein the backing plate and connectors are integrated into a bench top fixture.

25. (Once Amended) A method for attaching a thermal solution to a circuit board comprising:

placing a mounting plate on top of a processor, the processor located on a top surface of the circuit board and the mounting plate having a mounting plate opening designed to allow the thermal solution to contact a processor;

aligning slots on the mounting plate with locking pins securable to the circuit board;

inserting one end of each locking pin into each mounting plate slot;

sliding each locking pin along a shelf located in each mounting plate slot; and

securing a thermal solution to the mounting plate wherein pressure is applied to a package secured to the processor, the package located beneath the thermal solution.

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26. The method of claim 25 further comprising providing a backing plate designed to give support to the circuit board, the locking pins securable to the backing plate.

27. The method of claim 26 further comprising:

testing the circuit board;

removing the attachment mechanism from the circuit board; and

reusing the attachment mechanism with another circuit board.

28. The method of claim 25 further comprising using the circuit board in normal operation, wherein the attachment mechanism permanently attaches the thermal solution to the circuit board.

29. (Once Amended) A method for temporarily attaching a thermal solution to a circuit board comprising:

providing a thermal solution attachment mechanism having first and second plates and a set of connectors to connect the first and second plates together;

placing a circuit board between the first and second plates wherein a thermal solution secured to an opening in the first plate contacts a package located on the circuit board;

testing the circuit board, wherein heat is removed by the thermal solution from a processor located in the package; and

removing the thermal solution attachment mechanism from the circuit board.

30. The method of claim 29 further comprising reusing the thermal solution attachment mechanism on another circuit board.

31. The method of claim 29 further comprising:

inserting the connectors into slots in the first plate; and

sliding the connectors along shelves located in the slots wherein the first and second plates are connected.

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32. The method of claim 30 wherein the shelves are substantially horizontal or angled.
33. The method of claim 32 further comprising applying pressure to the processor.
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